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Seventeenth Annual Catalog
and
Book of Instructions

DAHLIAS

Season
1927

LESLIE E. DOOLITTLE
DEL MONTE, CALIFORNIA





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Special Offers for Season 1927—See Inside Back Cover

Del Monte's Greeting to Dahlia Lovers



DAHLIAS have an added refinement of beauty each season, as the newer creations are offered to the public, and proof of the ever-increasing popularity of this flower is not lacking.

In response to the many requests which have come for information as to the proper procedure in the planting and care of this wonderful flower, we have made it a point to offer without charge, information contained herein, gathered chiefly from experience, and with all due respect to theoretical ideas.

In this, our seventeenth year of Dahlia culture, we find that while we have gained much knowledge pertaining to this plant, there is still much to learn. An ever-increasing demand for our Book of Instructions and Dahlia Catalog, from many public libraries throughout the country, indicates beyond doubt that there is need of just such a publication. We look forward with pleasure to the time that we can go into all the finer points of Dahlia culture even to a greater extent. At the present time, lack of space in our booklet will forbid greater detail.

It is therefore our intention to be explicit, yet not to dwell at great length on the merits of a variety, regardless of its extreme beauty. The very statement of its quality should suffice. We will list nothing that lacks merit, and by giving an honest opinion, we have gained many friends and constant customers.

To our customers of many years, we are especially thankful. To our newer customers we pledge ourselves to Quality and Service. Every order sent out is filled under my personal supervision. What can be more essential to Dahlia success than to have first quality tubers to begin with?

Each tuber sent out has fully developed eyes, so you may be certain that under proper care and control, these eyes, or sprouts, will grow and multiply, chase either tubers or cut flowers, although we sell both.

Del Monte invites you to its wonderful new hotel, and we ask you to visit the beautiful Del Monte Dahlia Gardens, without any obligation to pur-

With best wishes for still greater Dahlia success, I am

Most sincerely yours,

Del Monte, Calif.

LESLIE E. DOOLITTLE.

We are members of:

The DAHLIA SOCIETY OF CALIFORNIA..... San Francisco
The NATIONAL DAHLIA SOCIETY OF AMERICA..... Seattle, Wash.
The AMERICAN DAHLIA SOCIETY..... New York, N. Y.

Leslie E. Doolittle's Dahlias at Del Monte

WON THE HIGHEST AWARD EVER OFFERED

GOLD MEDAL

For Best General Collection---Official Dahlia Show, Panama Pacific Exposition, San Francisco,
1915

*DIVINE DISVNCITA
IVNXIT HOMO*
With Divine touch man
unites the different
elements



FOLLOWING ARE A FEW OF THE MANY SPLENDID REPORTS
RECEIVED FROM SATISFIED CUSTOMERS

Mr. R. R. B. of Seattle, Wash., writes under date of Aug. 25, 1926:

"If there is a better Dahlia grown than your Wizard of Oz, it is your Alcalde. I cut one from my garden today, which measured almost 15 inches in diameter. I have some Wizard of Oz over 13 inches in diameter, and two blooms of Del Monte Sunshine which measure over 10 inches."

L. R. of Auburn, Calif., writes:

"I became very much interested in your collection of Dahlias, at the State Fair. They are the most gorgeous, largest, and most beautiful I have ever seen, and I heard a great many others, who looked at them, voice their admiration. Please send Catalog and Book of Instructions."

Mrs. A. F. G. of Hartford, Conn., says:

"The 100 tubers are now planted at our country home—when next order arrives we will plant same at our city place. I thought the Wizard of Oz the most beautiful one I had ever seen, last year. Some of the family enjoyed the Earle Williams even more."

Mrs. G. A. R. of Blackburn, Mo., writes:

"Had wonderful blossoms from tubers sent from your gardens."

Mrs. M. S. of Oakland, Calif., sends the following:

"Have had the honor of being supplied with gifts of your wonderfully beautiful Dahlias, during a recent long sick spell. These were grown by a friend, from tubers from your gardens. These blossoms were the most beautiful I have ever seen—not excepting those in floral shops. I intend growing Dahlias next season. Please send Catalog and Book of Instructions."

D. T. M. of Los Angeles, Calif., says:

"Had wonderful success with your Dahlia's Nobilis and Lynette."

Chas. Frederick Carter, writing for the "New York Central Lines Magazine" and for the Cleveland, Ohio, "News," had several pretty remarks to offer regarding our Dahlias:

"Del Monte, one of California's beauty spots, famed for generations, marked our farthest south. The world-renowned Seventeen Mile Drive, which includes a segment of lovely Carmel Bay and a colony of millionaires, is supposed to be one of the surpassing attractions of this section. But, personally, I vote unanimously for Leslie E. Doolittle's Dahlia Garden, a short walk from the hotel, a five-acre farm on which grows a \$75,000 crop of Dahlias. . . . Colors to which no rainbow dare aspire . . . a sight to which we returned again and again, to finally leave with a pang of regret."

In the same article, Mr. Carter again refers to our Dahlias, as follows:

"Four high points in our trip were: the surpassing loveliness of Crater Lake; the sumptuous splendor of the Del Monte Dahlia Gardens; the silver moonlight shimmering through the fir boughs on Lake Tahoe, and the sublime grandeur of the cloud display in Wyoming. Any one of the four sights was worth the trip across the continent to see."

R. R. K., Berea, Ohio, says:

"Had very fine results with your Dahlia, Wizard of Oz. I won FIRST PRIZE with it at the Cuyahoga County Fair."

Look up our SPECIAL OFFERS inside back cover

REPORTS FROM SATISFIED CUSTOMERS

S. R., of Santa Clara, Calif., writes:

"I can honestly say that I have never grown, nor have I seen a variegated Dahlia to compare with your Earle Williams."

M. C., Jr., of Concord, Mass., says:

"As yet, we here in the East have to go West for our finest Dahlia novelties."

B. A. R., Los Angeles, Calif., telegraphs:

"Had good success with order sent last season. Send \$30.00 assortment C. O. D. Selection left to your judgment."

Richard M. Buttle, President of National Dahlia Society, Seattle, Wash., says:

"Have each season secured all of the best and highest priced Dahlias obtainable, and have yet to find any that will come in the same class as your varieties WIZARD OF OZ and EARLE WILLIAMS, unless it may be your DON WILLIAMS."

Sacramento, Calif., Sept. 10 (Special to Monterey "Peninsula Herald"):

Dahlias grown at Leslie E. Doolittle's Gardens at Del Monte, today were the hit of the Annual State Agricultural Fair here.

Mrs. G. S., Whitehouse Station, New Jersey, writes:

"Dahlias purchased from you have grown fine, and are very beautiful, while other Dahlias purchased near here are not so pretty."

L. D., Kansas City, Mo., writes:

"My 52 Dahlia tubers have arrived and I am very pleased with them."

R. S. C., San Francisco, Calif., writes:

"For several years I have been favored with your Catalog on Dahlias—probably the best publication of its kind in this country. The frank, generous, open-hearted information therein is entitled to recognition." (This party enclosed a \$23.00 order.)

W. E. P., Tangshan, N. China, says:

"Please send by registered mail the following—the tubers sent last year were extremely satisfactory."

H. J. P., Lankershim, Calif., writes:

"All tubers ordered of you last year did wonderfully, excepting one which was frozen, through no fault of yours." (Order to amount of \$30.50 enclosed.)

Mrs. B. C. F., Berkeley, Calif., wrote:

"The tubers arrived in excellent condition."

Mrs. O. A. P., Richmond, Calif., writes:

"Words fail to express my joy and pleasure derived from the Dahlias purchased from you—order and payment enclosed."

W. T., Olyphant, Pa., writes:

"Am enclosing herewith an order for Dahlias—I had the pleasure of visiting your Dahlia Gardens while on a visit to the Pacific Coast—I was courteously shown through your beautiful gardens—in all my travels from Seattle to San Diego I did not see any Dahlias that equaled yours."

G. E. J., Utica, N. Y.:

"I consider that there is more good sense in your 'Instructions for Planting' than in the average Dahlia catalog. I look over a great number of Dahlia catalogs during a season."

J. A. B., Santa Monica, Calif., writes:

"I have been getting Dahlia tubers from you each Spring for a number of years and I have had great success with them. I now have a splendid collection, which affords great pleasure to myself and friends. I again enclose an order, with check to cover amount of same."

Look up our **SPECIAL OFFERS** inside back cover

DESCRIPTIONS, OR CLASSIFICATION OF DAHLIA TYPES DECORATIVE DAHLIAS

This is usually the largest flowering type of all Dahlias; is very hardy, vigorous, and long stemmed, so that we have in the DECORATIVE, the highest type of Dahlia. The true type is represented in our "Earle Williams" Dahlia, page thirteen. Double flowers, full to the center in early season, somewhat loosely arranged floral rays (petals), with broad points or rounded tips, which are either straight or decurved (turned down or back), not incurved, and with margins revolute (rolled back) if rolled at all.

CACTUS DAHLIAS

True Fluted Type: flowers fully double, petals long, narrow, incurved or twisted, with sharp, divided or fluted points, and with revolute (rolled back) margins, forming in the outer florets, a more or less perfect tube for more than half the length of the ray. The CACTUS type of Dahlia is of extreme refinement, combining grace and rare, dainty colorings.

DECORATIVE CACTUS DAHLIAS

As will be readily understood, this type of Dahlia is a cross between a Decorative and Cactus type, and must show characteristics of both these types when being exhibited. Flowers fully double, with center petals usually rather broad, with the outer petals tapering to a point.

SHOW DAHLIAS

Ball shaped, always double, globular rather than flat, full to center, symmetrical formation of petals, floral rays more or less quilled. This is the old-fashioned type that our grandparents knew so well. However, today we have many deviations from this type, in new colorings, evolved from the old SHOW type.

DECORATIVE SHOW DAHLIAS

A cross between these two mentioned types, which bears a resemblance to both types mentioned.

PEONY FLOWERED DAHLIAS

Semi-double flowers with open center, the inner floral rays being usually curled or twisted; the other, or outer petals being either flat, or more or less irregular. This type of Dahlia is in great demand, and is one of the most valuable.

CACTUS PEONY DAHLIAS

This is one of the newer type of Dahlias, just now being classified and exhibited at the Dahlia shows throughout the U. S. A. It is a cross between these two types of Dahlias, as the name implies. To see the true type of this Dahlia, see our "Chocolate Soldier," page 11. Others of this type of Dahlia are now appearing. They are very beautiful and artistic.

SINGLE DAHLIAS

Open-centered Dahlias, small to very large, with eight to twelve floral rays, more or less in one circle. Margins often incurved (turned down). The type embraces the larger Century types, as well as the small English varieties.

POMPON DAHLIAS

This is the "baby" Dahlia of them all, and is almost a miniature Show Dahlia in type. Pompons are very much in demand, as they make a wonderful flower for table decoration. They blossom early and late in the season, are very free in blooming quality, and come in many rich and desirable tones. You will find this type pictured on page 14. The varieties are listed together on page 30. These will be found very inexpensive. They should be planted by themselves, as they are low growing.

COLLARETTE DAHLIAS

A single flower with open center. Blossoms with about nine floral rays, or less, with one or more smaller rays, usually of a different color, from heart of each ray floret, forming a collar about the yellow disc.

GENERAL LIST OF VARIETIES

ALCALDE—Decorative. One of our very newest and finest Dahlias. The most attractive offspring from our "Wizard of Oz" that it has been our privilege and pleasure to offer our customers. Rich old rose and bronzy pink tones. On rare occasions this plant will throw a few blossoms which are beautifully marked paper white. As for size, we had blooms measuring from nine to eleven inches in diameter, this season. The variety showed a decided improvement over last year, which is the exception to the usual rule with new varieties. This should prove an excellent Dahlia for exhibition purposes, too. Tubers, each \$7.50.

A LITTLE BIT O' HEAVEN—Decorative-Peony. Light lavender, with a slight suggestion of rose. A large flowering variety of merit, which we are proud to introduce. One of the finest of lavender-toned Dahlias. New. Tubers, each \$2.00.

AMUN RA—Decorative. A Gold Medal variety, it having won many awards for the last six consecutive seasons, at the Palace Hotel Shows, in San Francisco. Gorgeous shades of copper and orange, shading to gold and amber, deepening in the center to a rich reddish bronze. Very large flowering, and a robust grower. Tubers, each \$1.00.

ATTENTION—Peony. Splendid upright stems. The colorings are a light claret wine, shading to amber pink, each petal heavily tipped white. One of our own. Tubers, each \$2.00.

ALVARADO—Decorative-Peony. Bright red, somewhat similar to the well-known Dahlia, Pride of California. Free blooming, with strong, upright stems. Tubers, each 75c.

AIELLO—Decorative-Show. Magenta, tipped white. A small flower with an attractive coloring. Tubers, each 50c.

ANGEL WINGS—Decorative. This is a wonderfully fine Dahlia, and something that we are offering for the first time. A creamy white, with just a faint suggestion of lemon. Large flowering, and grown upon a splendid stem. We feel that we cannot recommend this variety too highly, as it has done remarkably well all season. An exhibition variety. Tubers, each \$2.50.

AMBASSADOR—Cactus. Giant flowering, and one of the outstanding California Dahlias. The colorings are of the softer tones of yellow, buff, and salmon pink. The petals are straight, and pointed at the tips. Fine formation, good stems, and good keeping qualities. This Dahlia has the reputation of having been sold at fifty dollars, when first introduced. Exhibit this one. Tubers, each \$3.00.

BARBARA LATZ—Decorative-Peony. This is one of our varieties that is always in great demand, on account of its unusually good qualities. It is a low-growing plant, early, very free in bloom, and always with a good upright stem. The color is a clear, light lemon yellow. Tubers, each \$1.50.

BYRON—Decorative. One of our older Dahlias, and one of the most reliable. Deep, rich burgundy wine color. Large flowering, and of great depth; always borne upon good stems. This Dahlia will stand forcing, and is much improved by trimming as well as debudding. A good exhibition variety. Tubers, each 75c.

BABETTE—Peony. Amber yellow, shading to apricot and buff tones. Of great size, and prolific in blooming quality. Early flowering. One of our Dahlias. Tubers, each \$2.50.

BILLY BRAD—Decorative-Peony. Here is a Dahlia that attracts the eye at first glance, and is one of our own introductions of much merit. It is an offspring from our "Earle Williams." A combination of rich tones of cherry red and wine, shading to maroon, and very often prettily marked paper white. This is most attractive, and useful for the exhibition table. Tubers, each \$2.50.



AS "THE FLOWER OF THE HOUR" BLOOMS TODAY

Three specimen blooms; of our "Vasanta," on the left; our "Wizard of Oz," on the right; and "Amun Ra," below.

These splendid Dahlias were grown without any forcing of the plant whatsoever, and are a manifestation of what can be done with our Dahlia tubers, anywhere. For a number of years we have used no stable nor barn-yard manures. Our tubers have not been forced. We use only a compost, which we term a **natural** fertilizer. This compost contains only the trimmings from the Dahlia plant itself, such as waste blossoms, foliage, stalks, and waste tubers, combined with oak leaf-mold.

Our theory has proven to be both practical and absolutely correct, and has revolutionized methods of Dahlia culture.

BLACK JACK—Decorative-Peony. One of the deepest maroon and cherry-colored Dahlias of any type. A Californian of merit. Bushes grow tall, and the stems throw the very large blossoms well above the foliage. A 1924 introduction which will prove an added attraction to the garden as well as upon the exhibition table. Tubers, each \$2.50.

BALLET GIRL—Cactus. Most of the flowers are with orange and white markings, although this is no exception to the usual rule in variegated Dahlias, and some blossoms will come in the straight orange color, others white. A most attractive flower. A splendid exhibition variety. Like most of the "Cactus" type, the stem is only fairly good. Tubers, each \$1.50.

BRONZE ORANGE—Decorative. Reddish bronze, or a combination tone of brown and orange. Quite unusual. Very free blooming, and in good demand. Tubers, each \$1.00.

BASHFUL GIANT—Decorative. An Eastern Dahlia which has been in great demand. Golden apricot and yellow tones. Very large flowering. An exhibition variety. Tubers, each \$1.00.

BONITA ONA WILLISON—Decorative. This is an early, new variety. The first blossoms of this Dahlia are exceptionally good. Splendid stems and free blooming. The coloring is an attractive shade of cherry red, with claret wine shadings. Tubers, each 50c.

BLACK LION—Decorative. A very unusual Dahlia, both in coloring and habits. A new introduction. Deepest maroon to black, tinged with a ruby tone. An attractive flower, yet inclined to have a short stem and very heavy foliage. Tubers, each 50c.

B. T. DENNES—Peony. One of our older Dahlias, yet most attractive when well grown. Blossoms are of good size. A combination of mahogany and tan shades. Tubers, each \$1.50.

CONIGILO—Decorative-Peony. Brightest golden yellow flowers, in great profusion and on good stems. Here is a good new Dahlia. Tubers, each \$2.00.

CLARA SEATON—Show. A beautifully quilled flower of good size, and with upright, hardy plant growth. The color is a rich bronzy gold. This is one of our own introductions, and we believe it to be one of the very best of this type in existence. Tubers, each 75c.

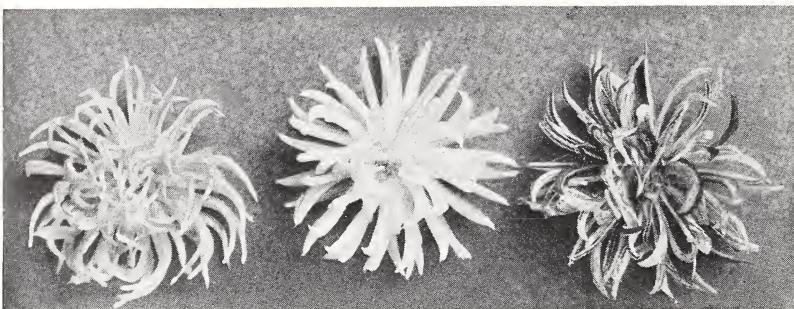
COPPER—Peony. Another of our own Dahlias, first offered a number of years ago, yet one that we find difficulty in getting along without, as it has proved very satisfactory wherever grown. A combination of coppery yellow tones, with just a suggestion of pink. Tubers, each 75c.

COMPENSATION—Decorative. One of our finest recent introductions. It has all the good points that could be desired, and has always oversold. The color is a transparent shade of bright, clear raspberry red. Should prove valuable for exhibition purposes, as well as for garden effect, as it grows to good size. Tubers, each \$2.50.

CREAM KING—Peony. A standard variety which has been in good demand. Very large flowering, often too heavy for the fairly heavy stem. Is always found useful for exhibition. The color is light lemon cream. Tubers, each 75c.

CLARISSA BLANCO—Decorative. This is one of our own giant-flowering, new introductions. There is positively nothing that can compare with it in these tones. Another offspring from our "Earle Williams," which is even larger than its parent, and is also of much greater depth. The color is deep claret wine, sometimes marked white. This variety may be depended upon to always make a wonderful showing, anywhere. In the garden it blooms in great profusion, and tops practically everything on the exhibition table. Tubers, each \$2.50.

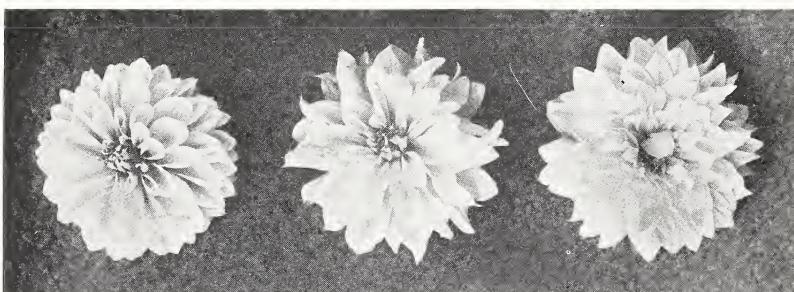
CLAIRIE—Peony. A medium sized blossom of dainty colorings, of soft tones of pink and yellow. Upright growth, and with splendid stems. Tubers, each \$1.00.



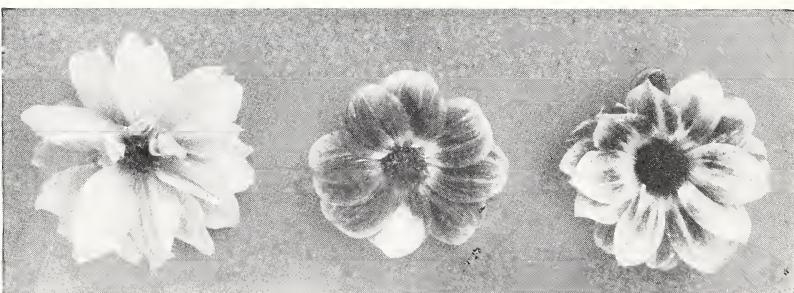
CACTUS
TYPES



PEONY
FLOWERING



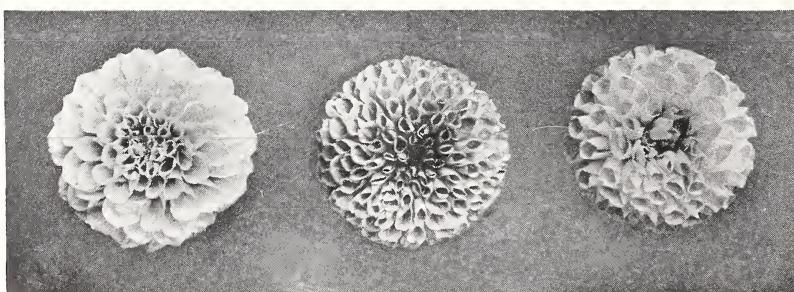
DECORATIVE
TYPES



1. PEONY
TYPE

2. SINGLE

3. PEONY
TYPE



1.
DECORATIVE
SHOW

2 and 3
SHOW
TYPES

CREAMOTTO—Decorative. A Dahlia of most excellent habits, it having strong upright stems and good blooming qualities. As a cut flower, it is one of the best. The flowers are quite large, while the color is a light creamy yellow. Tubers, each 75c.

CITY OF PORTLAND—Peony. One of the largest and most desirable, clear, canary yellow Dahlias. Its long, graceful petals are beautifully twisted and curved. Tubers, each \$1.00.

CHAMPAGNE—Decorative. A massive flower standing upright on a long, stiff stem. Rare coloring; dull gold, varying to chamois. The immense blooms attract much attention. Tubers, each \$2.50.

CRYSTAL—Cactus. This variety throws blossoms in great profusion; a small, daintily colored flower, of silvery rose pink. Tubers, each 50c.

C. C. MOORE—Peony. A pleasant shade of orange buff. The blooms are thrown well out from the plant, on strong stems. This variety has proven to be very satisfactory. Tubers, each 75c.

COL. ROOSEVELT—Decorative. One of the older varieties, yet splendid value. The plant grows quite low, producing large, purplish red flowers. Tubers, each 50c.

CORONIA—Cactus. An immense bloom of pale lemon color. This variety has a weak stem, which offers a protection to the delicate coloring of the flower. This is especially good for exhibition purposes. Tubers, each \$1.00.

CHOCOLATE SOLDIER—Cactus-Peony. Another of our own introduction, and one of extreme merit. It is of an entirely new type of Dahlia. The color is a new shade; rich velvety chocolate maroon, sometimes with a tinge of purple. The diameter of the flower will measure from 7 to 9 inches, with splendid long stems. When not debudded, every bud will develop a good perfect flower. This variety is one of the most admired in our garden and is really a rather late blooming Dahlia. Tubers, each \$2.00.



THE
CHOCOLATE
SOLDIER

DEL MONTE SUNSHINE—Peony flowering. One of our recent introductions. This plant is robust and upright in growth, throwing many beautiful blossoms, at one time, on good long stems. The color is most unusual and attractive, being a bright, fireman red, suffused and tipped with gold. Tubers, each \$3.50.

DON WILLIAMS—Decorative-Peony. Again we present another of our own Dahlias, in new colorings. It is a low-growing plant and one that is fairly covered with blossoms all season. When debudded and grown for size, it will grow immense. It has splendid stems. An offspring from the well-known "Earle Williams" Dahlia. Unlike the latter variety, it has no red in it, but is of an entirely new shade of lavender, each petal being tipped snow white. When forced a bit, this is a wonderful Dahlia for the exhibition table. Tubers, each \$3.00.

DR. H. L. TEVIS—Decorative. This is one of the best known California Dahlias, it having won many awards wherever shown. The bloom is very large, and always upon a good strong stem. The colorings are best described as being of the lighter apricot shades. Tubers, each 75c.

DREAM—Peony. A delicate shade of apricot pink. A delightful little Dahlia, which is always in good demand as a cut flower. Strong and upright stems. Tubers, each 50c.

ELIZABETH WEITZ—Peony. A new offspring from our "Nobilis," which is of much the same coloring, but of different formation. Crimson to cherry red, intermingled with paper white throughout the blossom, some few blossoms coming without the white. Splendid stems. One of the best new Dahlias. Tubers, each \$2.50.

ETRENNE—Peony. A new Dahlia of great attractiveness and considerable merit. Bright lemon yellow; of large size. The stem is only fairly good. Tubers, each \$1.50.

ESTHER HUNT—Decorative-Cactus. A soft-toned orange-colored flower, on a good stem. Blossoms freely and is a Dahlia that can be forced to a large size. A Californian of merit. Tubers, each \$2.00.

ELLA NAOMI PIERCE—Decorative-Peony. This is another Dahlia of our own introduction, and one that is greatly admired for its coloring. It is of a DuBarry red tone, overlaid with a sheen of blue flame. Good habits. Tubers, each \$1.50.

ELEANOR MARTIN—Decorative. A wonderful new Dahlia, of deep mulberry and rose colorings. The flowers are very large, and are held erect on long, stiff stems. Splendid for exhibition purposes, as well as being an asset to any bed of Dahlias. This is an early flowering variety. Tubers, each \$2.50.

EARLE WILLIAMS—Decorative. This Dahlia is pictured on the opposite page, less than one-half actual size. Deep, rich crimson, with paper white markings. A wonderfully fine Dahlia. For further description, see next page. Tubers, each \$1.50.

EXPRESSION—Peony. Glistening snow white. Especially free blooming; on good upright stems. Tubers, each \$2.00.

EARLY DAWN—Decorative. A small flower of exquisite beauty, borne on upright stem. The colorings are silvery rose pink. Very dainty. This little Dahlia may be relied upon to be most satisfactory for room decoration. Tubers, each 75c.

EMPRESS—Cactus. Sharp pointed petals. A blossom of good size, and a plant which throws an over-abundance of bloom. The color is deep lilac or Tyrian rose. Tubers, each \$1.00.



OUR "EARLE WILLIAMS" DAHLIA
(One-half actual size)

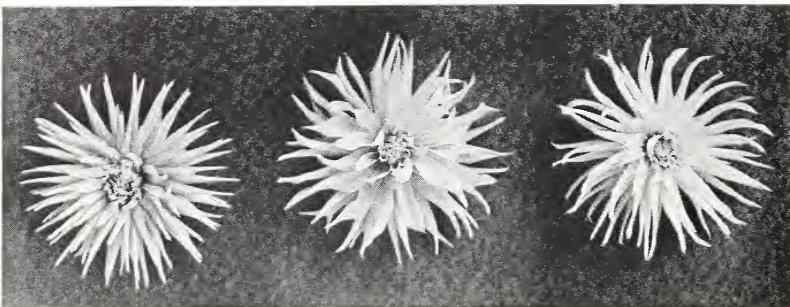
This Dahlia has proved to be the finest variegated variety under cultivation, with our "Nobilis" a close second. It has been our observation that the latter named variety even does better than the "Earle Williams" in the warmer climates, so here we present two of the most attractive and wonderful Dahlias that it has ever been our privilege to offer. The two Dahlias grow almost identical in coloring, with us, the deep rich crimson of the stripes in a silk American flag, combined with paper white.

In the reproduction shown above the crimson predominates, while in the "Nobilis" the white usually predominates, and the center is often more prominent than in the "E. W.," with the blossoms not quite so large. The "Nobilis" can be best distinguished from its offspring by a rather wavy effect of the petals.

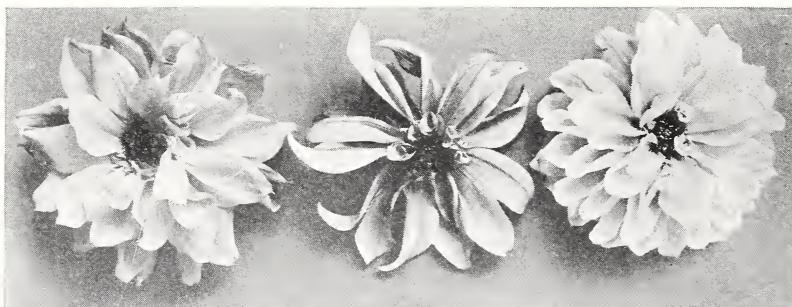
We have never known either of these two Dahlias to fail to win in competition with other variegated varieties, and on the contrary, we learn where our customers win the highest honors offered, all over the U. S. A., with these Dahlias.



DECORATIVE
TYPES

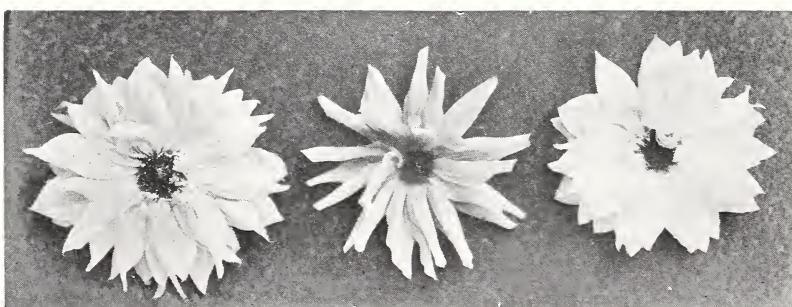


CACTUS
TYPES

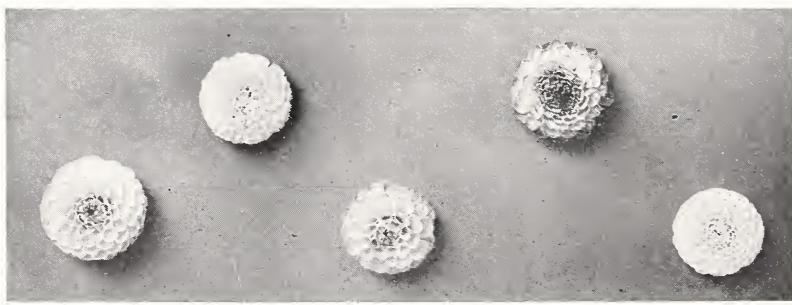


1 and 2
PEONY
TYPES

3.
DECORATIVE
PEONY



PEONY
FLOWERING
TYPES



POMPON
TYPES

Plants grow low

FLUFFY RUFFLES—Decorative-Cactus. This novelty is a new combination of color. Beautiful blossoms of golden fawn, with a satin sheen, shading to a golden yellow at center. The petals twist and turn, showing old rose tones on the reverse side. Flowers are held erect on good stems. Tubers, each \$1.50.

F. W. FELLOWES—Cactus. This flower has the sharp-pointed petals, and can be forced to great size. Rich orange color. Tubers, each 75c.

GRACE STROHN—Cactus-Peony. Large star-shaped flowers, with prominent center. A very artistic Dahlia. Blossoms in great profusion. The color is a delightful shade of golden yellow. Tubers, each \$1.50.

GERTRUDE ARNES—Cactus-Peony. This Dahlia usually grows quite tall, and blooms freely, on long stems. The color is a tomato red. Tubers, each \$1.00.

GLADYS SHERWOOD—Decorative-Cactus-Peony. The blossoms are of immense size, while the stem is good, and the blooming qualities are all that could be desired. One of the very best snow white Dahlias. Tubers, each \$1.00.

GRIZZLY—Peony. Maroon red, shading to deepest cherry. A very large and splendid California Dahlia. A robust grower. Tubers, each \$1.00.

GOLDEN ORIOLE—Decorative-Peony. Very early and free blooming. Golden yellow, slightly suffused bronze. A splendid exhibition variety. We grow it eight to ten inches in diameter. One of our own Dahlias. Tubers, each \$2.50.

GEO. WALTERS—Decorative-Cactus-Peony. Salmon to shrimp pink shades. Stems are especially long and strong. A good flower either for exhibition or as a cut flower; also gives a very pretty garden effect. Tubers, each 75c.

GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY—Show. Here we have another of our finest Dahlias in this type. Rich buttercup yellow, shaded burnt orange, directly in the center of the flower. Always upon good, strong stems. Fine for exhibition, as well as for cut flower purposes. Tubers, each 75c.

GORGEOUS—Peony. A most attractive, large flowering variety. The growth of this plant is very tall and hardy. Extra long, stout stems. Golden yellow, shading to scarlet. Excellent for exhibition. A Californian of merit. Tubers, each \$1.50.

GLORIA EDMUND—Show. Not a large flower, but one that at once attracts the attention. Very showy in the garden. Brightest cerise rose. New. Tubers, each 50c.

GLOIRE de VERDUN—Decorative-Show. Perhaps the brightest Dahlia in our whole collection. Crimson to bright vermillion. Almost a flaming ball. An importation which is greatly admired. Tubers, each \$1.00.

GOLDEN HARVEST—Decorative-Cactus. We believe this to be one of the finest of our 1926 introductions. It has an ideal growth and holds its type throughout the entire season, blooming in profusion. Golden Harvest can be forced to unusually large size, and is a variety that will stand debudding. Golden yellow blossoms, as clear and bright as can be, on long, strong stems. Tubers, each \$3.00.

GEISHA—Peony. One of the older varieties which is always in demand. The colors are orange yellow, shading to scarlet. There is often a great variation of colorings in this Dahlia. Tubers, each 75c.

GLASGOW—Decorative-Peony. Deepest maroon and wine tones. Especially attractive early in season. A very rich coloring, with fairly good stems. Tubers, each \$2.50.

HALL CAINE—Decorative-Peony. One of the most beautiful new introductions. Bright orange, and light orange red shadings, often marked with a suggestion of yellow. Bright, golden yellow center. Blossoms freely on good, upright stems. Tubers, each \$1.50.

HALVELLA—Decorative. A new, soft rose pink Dahlia of merit. Very long stems. A splendid cut flower. Tubers, each \$2.00.

HOLLYWOOD—Peony. Very low growing and early blooming. A dainty little flower of soft-toned shades of apricot and salmon pink. Very free blooming. Tubers, each 75c.

IDA E. DOOLITTLE—Peony. Color of the La France rose; silvery rose pink. A long-stemmed variety of great beauty. Tubers, each \$5.00.



HONG KONG

Is a delightfully different Dahlia than it has been our pleasure to introduce heretofore.

HONG KONG—Peony-Cactus. This flower is inclined to resemble the peony type more than it does the cactus type; nevertheless, it often has rather sharp-pointed petals and is perhaps about one-fourth cactus type. Oriental colors, of buttercup yellow toward the center, while the outer petals are shaded a deep tomato red. Tubers, each \$2.50.

J. W. DAVIES—Decorative. Large flowers of cerise-rose tones. Great depth, and splendid stems. Very attractive. Tubers, each \$2.00.

JUNIPERO SERRA—Peony. One of our new Dahlias. Beautiful bronzy orange colored blossoms. Rare tones, and an excellent plant growth. This will be in good demand. Tubers, each \$5.00.

JOHN DOUGH OF OZ—Peony. Sulphur yellow, lightened up with a faint suggestion of orange, making this very much admired by all who see it. Tubers, each \$1.00.

JANE SELBY—Decorative-Peony. Silvery rose pink, upon a good stem. This is a very satisfactory Dahlia, of good size. Tubers, each 75c.

JEAN CHAZOT—Decorative-Cactus. One of the finest of the imported Dahlias. It is unsurpassed by any of the autumn tinted Dahlias as a cut flower. It is a free, upright grower; long, stiff, wiry stems hold the flowers well above the foliage in such manner as to display their full beauty. The color is a beautiful golden bronze, with just a faint suggestion of nasturtium red, which adds to its charm. Tubers, each \$1.50.

KAZU—Decorative-Peony. Soft shades of salmon pink. A new introduction of California origin. Tubers, each \$2.00.

KING OF HAWAII—Decorative-Peony. A Seattle Dahlia that is especially good early in the season. The colorings are creamy yellow, with rose suffusion. Of good size and good habits. Tubers, each 75c.

FRANCIS LUERS

LADEN WITH BLOOMS OF THE "WIZARD" OF OZ



HAZEL THULLEN

K. J. D.—Decorative. Brightest, light crimson. A profusion of bloom all season. Good stems, and a variety that always attracts attention. Tubers, each \$1.00.

KALIF—Decorative-Cactus. Large blossoms of crimson, usually covered with a faint golden sheen, which is most becoming. A hardy grower, with long, upright stems. Tubers, each 75c.

KITTIE DUNLAP—Decorative. This very splendid California Dahlia is best described as being of a delightful shade of deepest rose, with, perhaps, a tinge of the American Beauty rose coloring. It has a good stem and grows to immense size. It is very often a prize winner. Tubers, each \$2.50.

LA FAVORITA—Decorative-Cactus. A beautiful orange-colored Dahlia, of California origin. It has good qualifications throughout. Tubers, each \$1.00.

LIVING GOLD—Decorative. Light golden yellow, with a suffusion of rich orange, this latter shade being especially heavy toward the center of the blossom, as this shade of orange is really on the reverse side of the petals, which gives the blossom a very unusual effect. Tubers, each \$2.00.

LA CREOLE—Decorative. Our own, and while the blossom is not large, we are very fond of this variety, as it is especially good as a cut flower, and the color is very fine. A rich cherry red shaded to maroon. Tubers, each \$1.50.

LITTLE PINK KITTEN OF OZ—Single Peony. Soft blush pink, shaded amber. It is considered one of the prettiest flowers in our garden, although the blooms are never over 5 or 6 inches in diameter. Long, strong stems; very prolific in bloom. Our introduction. Tubers, each 75c.



THE "LITTLE PINK
KITTY OF OZ"

An excellent little flower
for the table or garden

LAVERNE—Peony. A free-blooming variety with good, substantial growth. The color is a light lemon yellow. Tubers, each \$1.00.

LULLINGSTONE—Peony. Watermelon red suffused garnet. A good sized flower. Tubers, each 75c.

LE GRANDE MANITOU—Decorative. One of the older Dahlias, which is always in good demand. Variegated, purple and white. Large, and very attractive. Tubers, each 75c.

L. C. ANDERSON—Decorative. Blossoms are of good size, borne on strong, upright stems. The color is a very rich shade of golden apricot. One of the best. Tubers, each \$3.50.

MAYBELLE ECKLAND—Peony. A Dahlia of merit, in maroon and wine shades. The tones are exceptionally rich and beautiful. Great long stems. One of our older varieties, still in demand. Tubers, each 75c.

MARIPOSA—Decorative-Cactus. A delightful shade of violet pink, which is intensified by a violet suffusion deepening in the center. This beautiful bloom of great depth and substance is splendid for exhibition as well as for the garden. The stem is very good. Another Californian. Tubers, each \$2.50.

MONTEREY—Peony-Cactus. An offspring from our greatest of all Dahlias, the "Wizard of Oz," so you may expect something remarkably good from this new Dahlia of our own introduction. As the peony-cactus type indicates, this is seldom a full flower, more often showing a bright open center, with long, tapering petals, quite sharp at the tips. It is by nature a wild grower, however, and giant flowering when forced at the proper time. The colors are soft amber to flesh pink. Tubers, each \$3.00.

MONTECITO—Peony. Another of our new ones. A very attractive shade of rose pink, interwoven with lighter shades of lavender pink. Very large and greatly admired. Tubers, each \$1.50.

MAGIC FLOWER OF OZ—Decorative-Peony. Flowers in great number all season. One of hardy growers, and most wonderful of our own introductions. Light coppery yellow, shaded bronze. The flowers are always of good size, thrown high on good stems, often towering above everything else in the garden. You will like this Dahlia. Tubers, each \$2.00.

MOTHER O'PEARL—Peony. Large blossoms of white, with a lovely tone of "mother of pearl" throughout the blossom. Long stems. Our own. Tubers, each \$1.50.

MAGNIFICENT—Cactus. Amber to salmon pink. A beautiful California Dahlia, for which there is a continued demand. The blossoms are of good size and with incurved petals. Tubers, each \$1.00.

MAROON KING—Decorative. A large flower and another husky grower in every way. The color is a rich shade of deep maroon. Our own. Tubers, each \$2.00.

M. H. de YOUNG—Decorative. Another Californian which deserves much praise, as it is of exceptionally fine color, and with other good characteristics as well. Golden apricot, suffused amber. It is almost an old gold in color. Much admired. Tubers, each \$5.00.

MILLIONAIRE—Decorative. This is no doubt one of the largest and finest Dahlias grown. The color is lavender, shading to light lavender. Our stock of this variety is especially good. Tubers, each \$1.00.

MRS. EDNA SPENCER—Cactus. This dainty and attractive flower is about one-eighth Decorative type, the petals being rather broad at the base. The color is almost as delicate as that of an orchid. Lavender to orchid pink. Wiry stems. Tubers, each \$1.00.

MRS. W. E. ESTES—Decorative-Cactus. Snow white blossoms on good, strong stems. This is a good Dahlia of California origin. One of the best white Dahlias to date. Tubers, each \$1.00.

MRS. ALEXANDER—Decorative-Show. A low-growing plant which throws many beautiful camelia-shaped blossoms, of a soft old rose tone. An older variety, which is still greatly admired. Tubers, each 75c.

MARYAN—Decorative. A very hardy growing plant, which throws a very large, long-stemmed blossom. The color is a combination of orange buff and apricot tones. Very effective at all times. Tubers, each \$1.50.

MIRABILIS—Decorative-Peony. This Dahlia came out the same time that our "Nobilis" appeared. It is quite as attractive as the latter named variety, when it is in good form, yet not always so dependable. Bright lemon color, with white markings. Very large flowering under favorable conditions. Tubers, each \$1.50.

MRS. I. DE VER WARNER—Decorative-Peony. An Eastern Dahlia of merit. The first blooms of this variety will come full to the center, while the next blossoms come in the peony type. The entire growth, including the stem, is all that could be desired. The blossoms are of good size and are most attractive. A deep yet bright shade of rose pink. Tubers, each \$1.00.

MRS. CARL SALBACH—Decorative. This Californian is deservedly a prize winner at many Dahlia shows. Besides being of great size and beauty, it has all the good qualifications required. The color is best described as being lavender pink. Tubers, each 75c.

MRS. G. ROEST—Peony. Another new type of Dahlia. Almost single flowers, the petals being rounded at the tips, while the color is golden apricot, with a suggestion of pink. The bright yellow center is very prominent. An upright growth, and with fine stems. Tubers, each 75c.

MRS. WARNAAR—Peony. White, with the faintest suggestion of rose. This variety can be forced to immense size, at which time it is very fine. Tubers, each \$1.00.

NOBILIS—Decorative. Large, substantial blooms of white and scarlet, which coloring makes this one of the most desired variegated Dahlias in existence. One of our own which we can heartily recommend. The foliage is very luxuriant and of a pretty shade of green. Excellent for all purposes. Tubers, each \$1.50.

NOA-NOA—Peony. A long-stemmed, golden apricot colored Dahlia, of medium size. Splendid for cutting. New. Tubers, each \$1.00.

NIBELUNGENHORT—Cactus. About one-fifth Decorative type. Soft amber pink, shading to flesh pink. Extremely pretty, and a good cut flower, either for the house or for exhibition. Tubers, each 75c.

NATOMI—Decorative-Peony. One of those "tawny" toned Dahlias, which twist and turn in endless array of types. Orange, apricot and buff shades, with no two blossoms the same type. The first blossoms are inclined to be full to the center. The growth is hardy and stems are good. Very much admired. Tubers, each \$1.50.

ORANGE QUEEN—Decorative-Peony. Orange color, with reverse side of petals a golden bronze. A very pretty effect. Tubers, each \$1.00.

OZCOT—Decorative. A splendid Dahlia, with hardy, upright growth and good, strong stems. This can be forced to large size, and is of beautiful coloring. A blend of salmon pink, coppery yellow and bronze. Tubers, each \$2.50.

ORANGE DOAZON—Decorative-Peony. Large blossoms of several shades of orange red. Good stems. There is always demand for this as a cut flower. Tubers, each 75c.

PRIDE OF CALIFORNIA—Decorative. Throws good large blooms of a deep red color. Bright and effective. Splendid growth and good stems. Tubers, each 75c.

PRINCESS PAT—Decorative. Old rose tones. Good qualifications throughout. Another Californian. Tubers, each \$1.00.

PIONEER—Decorative. Mahogany and blood red tones, prettily blended. This plant is covered with large blossoms, especially early and in mid-season. It should be a good exhibition variety. Pretty, dark green foliage. Tubers, each \$2.00.

PURPLE MANITOU—Decorative. Almost a royal purple, with perhaps a tone of magenta. Good size blossoms, on good stems. Tubers, each 75c.

PARADISE FOUND—Decorative-Peony. A wonderful new introduction of our own, and one which we are especially pleased to recommend. The color is a deep lemon yellow. It is usually a very heavy flower, blooming in great profusion, on extra strong stems. The great depth of the flower is remarkable, as well as the diameter, the back petals covering the stem like a huge chrysanthemum. We often grow this ten and eleven inches in diameter. Splendid for exhibition as well as all other purposes. Tubers, each \$2.50.



PARADISE FOUND

This wonderful Dahlia does better each season

QUEEN OF VIOLETS—Peony. A soft shade of deep violet. Free blooming. This is a good Dahlia that is always admired. Our own. Tubers, each \$1.00.

RAMONA—Decorative. Reddish brown, cherry to blood red, with gold suffusion. This is one of our introductions of merit. Exceptionally free in blooming qualities, and with good size blossoms, on good stem. Very fine. New. Tubers, each \$2.50.

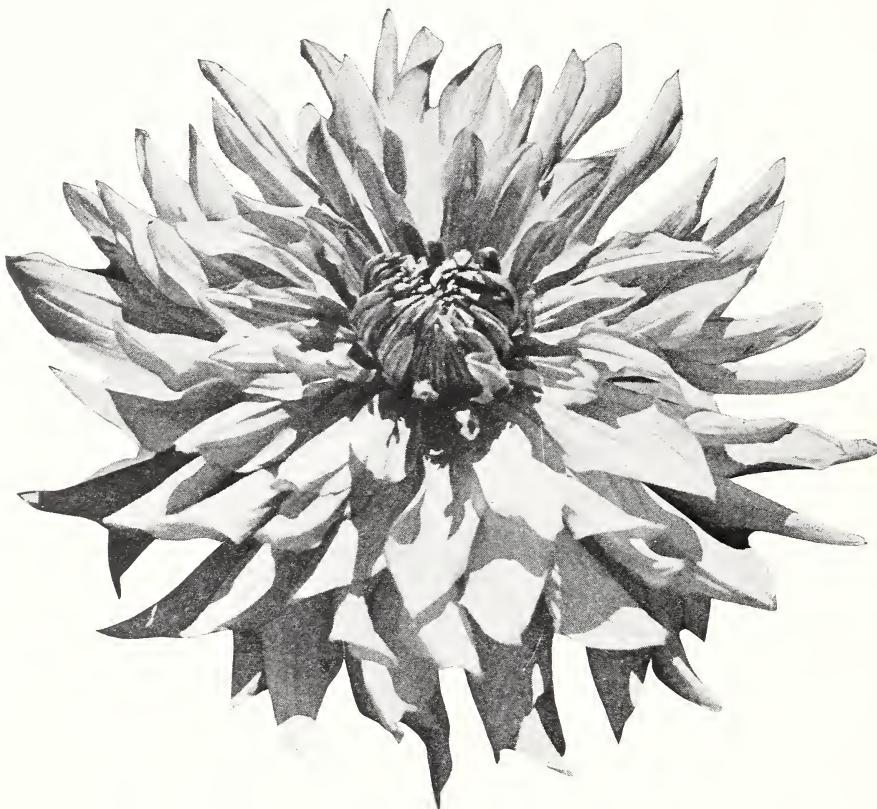
ROSA NELL—Decorative. Another splendid California Dahlia. It has two outstanding qualifications: color and size. Nothing better for exhibition. Very fair stems and good blooming quality. Brightest cerise rose. Tubers, each \$1.00.

RED CROSS—Decorative-Cactus. Light lemon, suffused cinnamon and orange. Good size and splendid stems. Very hardy. Tubers, each \$1.00.

ST. FRANCIS—Decorative. Soft cream color, softened with a pinkish glow. It is a low-growing plant with large blossoms, on good stems. Another Californian of merit. Tubers, each \$2.00.

SHUDOW'S LAVENDER—Decorative. Large and exceptionally fine where given a fair amount of attention. White ground color, suffused and shaded a pretty shade of lavender. The foliage is very attractive. Good stems and a hardy growth throughout. A California Dahlia. Splendid exhibition variety. Tubers, each \$2.00.

SWEET REMEMBRANCE—Peony. Not a large blossom, yet of exceptionally pretty tones of bright, soft rose pink, with a suggestion of yellow. Beautiful deep green foliage and good stems. Tubers, each 75c.



THE "WIZARD OF OZ"

THE WIZARD OF OZ—Decorative. Again, this splendid Dahlia of our own introduction has proved to be by far the largest and best Dahlia in our gardens, this past season. It is good early, in mid-season, and is still the best of its race, at the close of the blooming period. This Dahlia continues to win for our customers, wherever exhibited. One customer, Richard M. Buttle, of Seattle, Wash., reports that he grows this nearly 14 inches in diameter. We would say that this Dahlia is about one-eighth Cactus type. It is a flower of refined appearance, regardless of its determination to grow immense. If this Dahlia has one weak point, we do not know it. The color is a rare shade of glowing amber pink, or soft, salmon pink shades. We now have a big stock of this Dahlia, for the first time, and want everybody to grow it. The price of this variety will be cut in half this season, and where assortments of 100, 50, or 25 varieties are ordered, and left to our selection, we will include the Wizard of Oz at special rates. The straight price of this variety is \$3.00. (See Special Offers on inside of back cover of this catalog.)

SWEET BRIER—Cactus type. Silvery rose pink. A very delightful little flower; very free in blooming quality. Tubers, each 75c.

SUSAN G. TEVIS—Decorative. Deepest shade of bluish lilac, throughout the flower. Large flowering, with best of stem, besides being a most prolific plant. Was very pretty in our garden this past season. Tubers, each \$3.00.

THE SCREAMER—Peony. One of our best Dahlias, and one that has the distinction of being our “best seller” at our gardens this past season. It is a two-toned Dahlia, with its rich colorings greatly varied with every change of weather conditions, even to the time of day. In the evening when the cooler air prevails, the lavender and violet tones deepen with remarkable certainty. This Dahlia is no exception to that rule, and its large size, hardy growth, and pretty foliage make it a general favorite for all purposes. Violet purple, suffused mauve. When well grown, it is undoubtedly one of the finest Dahlias in existence. Tubers, each \$1.00.

THE ROMAN—Peony. Single Peony. Very free flowering; good stems. Medium size blossom of a delightful and unusual coloring, of Roman red to raspberry red. Tubers, each \$1.00.

UNCLE HENRY OF OZ—Decorative-Show. A very tall, sturdy plant, throwing good size blooms on good, long stems. The color is a deep rosy lilac. Tubers, each 75c.

TRAUFNERS CHOICE—Decorative-Cactus. The plants of this variety are a mass of bloom all season. Blossoms are of good size, wiry stems, and desirable qualifications. The color is a soft rose pink, almost a lavender tone. Tubers, each 75c.

WHITE QUEEN—Decorative-Cactus. Glistening white. Blossoms freely; long stems. Another importation, and a good one. Tubers, each \$1.50.

WASHINGTON CITY—Decorative-Cactus-Peony. A most attractive white Dahlia. Can be grown to great size. The flowers often show two or three types, yet always pretty. A Californian of merit. Tubers, \$1.00.

WORTHMORE—Decorative. Giant flowering. A new Dahlia of exceptionally good qualifications as an exhibition flower. It has size and rare coloring. Brightest carmine rose and cerise tones on a snow white ground. One of our own. Tubers, each \$5.00.



POMPON DAHLIAS

The Pompon type of Dahlia is the “baby” Dahlia of them all. At first glance, one not acquainted with this type would think it belonged to another sphere, other than the Dahlia world. Nevertheless, this is a very popular little plant, and is especially so for a cut flower, as the blooms are often kept for a week. These plants grow quite low, and should be a mass of bloom all season.

We offer a splendid selection of these at **35c** each, or a dozen may be had for **\$4.00**; **50** tubers for **\$15.50**; or **102** tubers for **\$30.00**.

Sent Postpaid.

ACHILLES—Delicate lavender, tinted lilac. A dainty, much liked flower.

ARTHUR KERLEY—Deep, rich cherry red. Good, long stems. You can't go wrong with this one.

AMBER QUEEN—Beautiful flowers of amber and apricot. A general favorite.

ANNIE DONCASTER—Yellow base, suffused pearly pink and mauve. A very unusual coloring; small flowers.

APRICOT—Apricot pink and yellow tones. This variety is very much liked, though the blossoms are not of the exhibition type.

ANTOINETTE—Small flowers of bright lemon yellow. Quite attractive.
Our own.

BOBBY—Splendid form. Magenta to plum color.

BRONZE BEAUTY—Beautiful medium-sized blossoms of apricot, suffused bronze. A general favorite.

DARKNESS—One of the darkest. Maroon, almost black. This is greatly admired, but is not an exhibition type.

DONOVAN—White petals, edged deep lavender. Very satisfactory; a great favorite.

FASCINATION—Very fine; an especially attractive cut flower. Lavender pink, lighter toward center.

GIRLIE—Lavender to mauve. The best to date, in these tones.

GLOW—A charming shade of old rose. Always in demand.

HENRIETTA—Deep sulphur yellow, each petal bordered with rosy lilac. Very free in bloom; good type.

HELEN LAMBERT—Brightly colored blossoms of canary yellow. Very free in bloom.

JACQUES—One of the best of this color, although the type is not the best. Deep canary yellow. A very good cut flower. Our introduction.

JOS. FETTE—Our favorite white; very free in bloom. The color is pure white, without the usual yellow or lavender tint.

LITTLE JENNIE—A quilled-petal type. The best creamy yellow pompon. A variety you should have.

LITTLE JOHNNY—Very small blossoms of deepest cherry and maroon. One of the best; good for exhibition.

LITTLE DONALD—A splendid little Dahlia. Bright, yet deep, cherry red.

NEATNESS—Straw color; salmon pink toward outer petals. Very much liked.

SUNBEAM—Well named. One of the brightest. Crimson scarlet.

SAN TOY—Another of the favorites. White, tinged carmine rose. The blossoms are sometimes rather large, but very attractive.

SULPHUR—Sulphur yellow, or slightly lighter. Wonderful for the garden and as a cut flower.

SPY—This is a bushy, low variety, which if used properly is very effective. Bright, yet deep, crimson.

SUNNY DAYBREAK—Golden yellow, suffused orange red. Very desirable; a wonderful cut flower. Good for exhibition.

SUNSET—Bright orange color. A favorite; always desirable. Good for exhibition.

TOMMY KEITH—An unusual, variegated pompon. Cherry red and white.

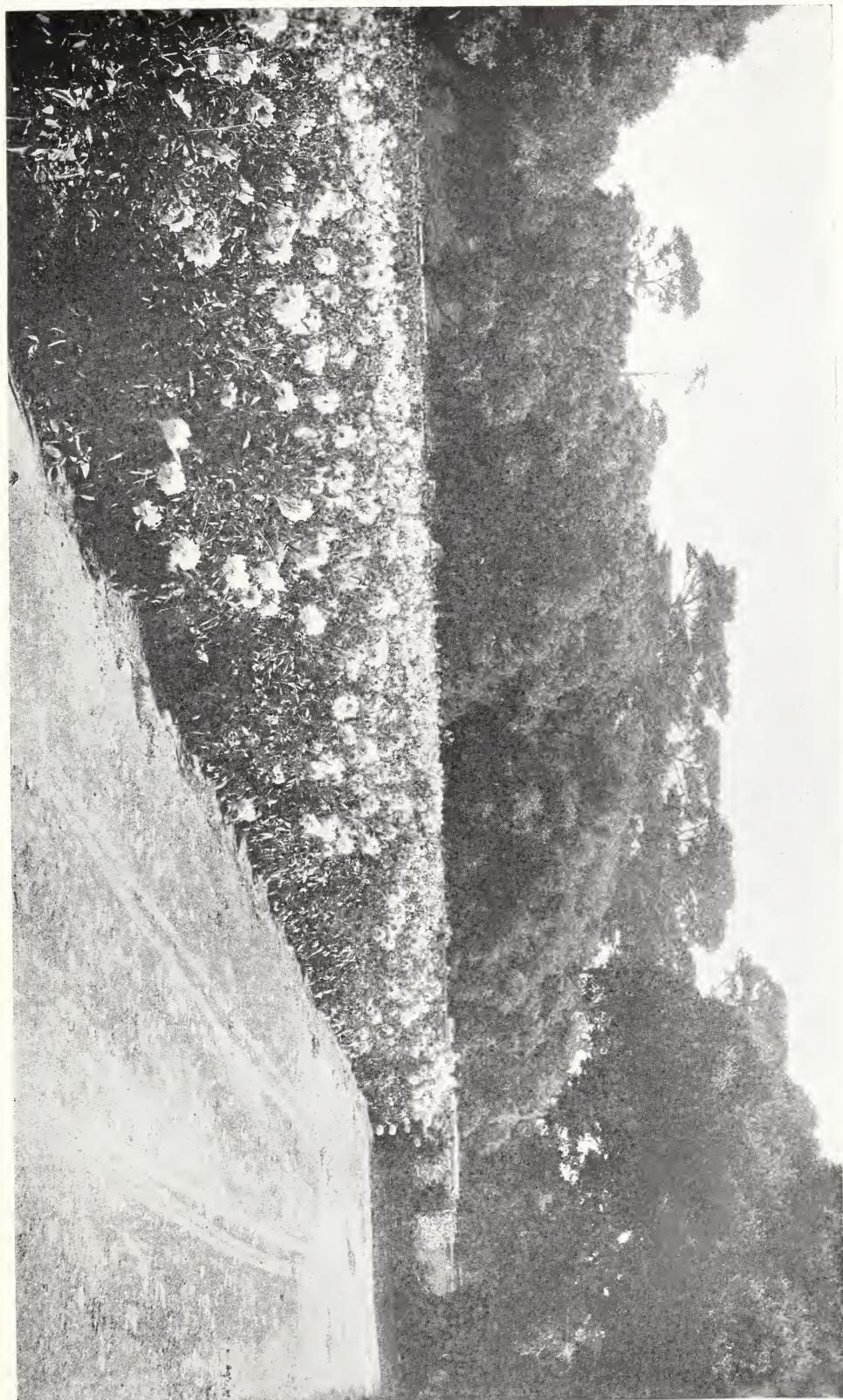
VIVID—A shade of vivid scarlet. Very similar to "Sunbeam."

WINIFRED—A very graceful and attractive flower. White, with the faintest suggestion of lavender on the outer petals.

TWO NEW INTRODUCTIONS

LYNETTE—A pompon of our origination: one of the latest. The color is lemon yellow, with each petal heavily edged with carmine rose. A small flower with excellent stems and of good type. You must have this one in your garden. Tubers, each \$1.00.

TORRES—New. Another of our own introductions, and one of exceptional quality. The colors are of deep orange red and light orange, each petal shading to lemon at base, which lends a very pretty effect. Exceptionally fine stems. Tubers, each \$1.00.



DAHLIAS BLOOM FREELY AT DEL MONTE

SCIENTIFIC INSTRUCTIONS AND SUGGESTIONS IN DAHLIA CULTURE

By LESLIE E. DOOLITTLE

After reading these instructions carefully, from beginning to end, you are expected to form the conclusion that a great deal of thought and study has been given these subjects pertaining to the Dahlia, and that our methods are not only scientific, but perfectly natural.

The time for planting the Dahlia tubers is after all danger of frost is past. This rule will apply to all climates. I shall again refer to the "planting time" further along in this article, and will now begin with suggestions as to the proper conditioning of the soil for Spring planting of the tubers.

SOILS AND THEIR ELEMENTS

The three essential elements for your Dahlia bed are: Nitrates, Potash, and Phosphates (ammonia), in proportions best suited for the particular soil in which you are to plant. What one soil may lack, another may have in too great proportion to the other elements, so that we find that we are best able to judge our soil by watching the growth of our plants, and correcting the growth by adding certain elements, and a careful study of the results obtained by the use and misuse of water. The **Nitrates** will not only start into action the different elements in the soil, but supply the green foliage to the plants. **Potash** will supply the wood growth, and the **Phosphates** of Ammonia supply the blooming quality. Now, what was wrong with your growth this past season? It is often the case that Dahlia plants grow too high, apparently at the expense of the blossoms. This is a potash growth, yet not what is desired. This growth is misdirected energy, and should be corrected this season. Too much early watering will cause the growth to be spindling and exceedingly lanky.

The desirable growth for a Dahlia plant is a NATURAL growth, and in order to get this growth, add natural elements to your soil. Have a **compost** heap. Read of it under that heading.

SOIL CONDITIONS AND PREPARATION OF BEDS

It is not alone proper chemical elements that are desired in making up your Dahlia bed. There is no reason why the soil in this bed should not be pliable to a depth of eighteen inches or more. In case the soil is inclined to pack, humus must be added. All heavy soils should be lightened by adding either one or all of the following: **Sawdust** (either redwood or pine), **Clean Straw** (this should be cut fine), **Leaf-mold** (any kind that is free from insect larva), **Wood Ashes**. The amount to be used depends entirely upon the condition of the soil, but it is safe to dig into practically any soil, a mulching four or five inches deep, these soil "rectifiers." The Dahlia beds should be prepared in the late fall, or as early in the spring as is possible, for best results. In this way, anything added to the soil will have an opportunity to become decomposed, so that with the third spading just before planting, these soil rectifiers will have become a part of the soil itself, through thorough incorporation. With an additional mulching of a compost made entirely from trimmings of the Dahlia plant itself, no further fertilizing is ordinarily required. The use of **Sand** and the **Forcing** of Dahlias we will mention later.

SELECTION OF UNFORCED DAHLIA TUBERS VERY ESSENTIAL

Start right, by obtaining Dahlia tubers that have not been forced to death by growing giant size blossoms for the shows. By the term "forcing" I mean to imply that most Dahlia growers increase the size of their flowers, for exhibition purposes, by the unnatural method of using stimulants, such as fresh and partly decomposed manures. One of our strongest policies in growing Dahlias, is not to force them, so that we may enjoy a long blooming period, and that our customers may continue to **WIN** with our Dahlia tubers, with but very little forcing on their part. If you or any of your friends doubt our ability to grow fine large blossoms for four or more months in the year, with-

out the use of barnyard manures, remember that we will be pleased to show you results, and it has long since been conceded that it is "result" that counts. However, if you want to grow the "big boys," we will tell you how to do it, under another heading.

DAHLIA TUBERS RECEIVED, AND PLANTING STARTS

A nice open, sunny situation having been selected for the Dahlia bed, and the rules of proper mulching having been complied with, we take it for granted that the soil has been spaded to a good depth, and thus are we assured of good drainage. A sprinkling of unslacked lime should have been added, too, before that last spading, in soils that are inclined to sour. Dahlia plants should give best results where they are given about three feet of space between them, yet this is by no means absolutely necessary. Where space is limited, good results are often obtained by planting a double row, alternating so that the plants will be two or two and a half feet apart, where a strip of garden space is two and a half or three feet in width.

The Dahlia tuber, in the condition in which it is received from the grower, needs neither a severe soaking in water nor a strong stimulant in the way of a fertilizer. See that the soil is only slightly moist at planting time, as it must be remembered that this tuber is merely a **storage place** of plant food and **moisture**, sufficient to feed the eye or sprout, until the sprout reaches above the surface of the ground, at which time it will have formed a root system of its own. At this period, very **slight** moisture may be added, gradually increasing the supply as the plant grows higher, bearing in mind that the most desirable growth is obtained by free use of the cultivator or hoe, and not by early

watering. We want the foliage to broaden and the branches to expand, and yet not grow too high. Early watering will start the action of the elements in the soil, far too early in the season, causing the plant to grow to great height, and the blossoms will be much smaller and less numerous than will be the case where a good, healthy, low growth is obtained. By not watering much until the plant comes into bud, you will save the forcing quality of the

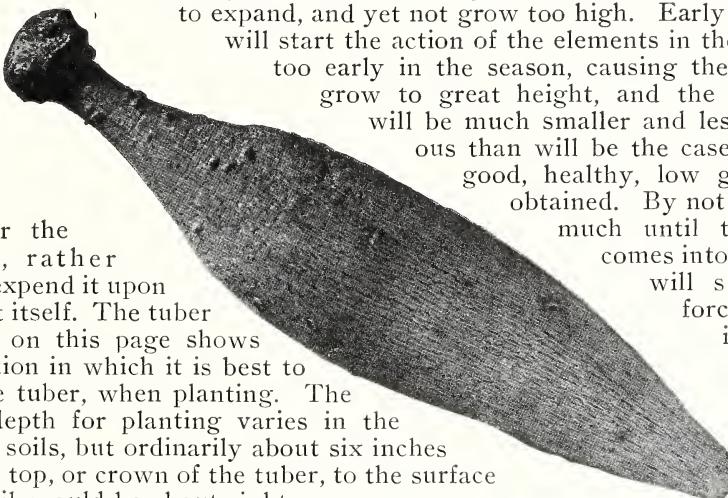
plant for the blooms, rather than to expend it upon the plant itself. The tuber pictured on this page shows the position in which it is best to place the tuber, when planting. The proper depth for planting varies in the different soils, but ordinarily about six inches from the top, or crown of the tuber, to the surface of the soil, would be about right.

In placing the tuber in position, it is well to see that no partly decayed vegetable matter comes in direct contact with it.

If this should occur, it will often destroy the tuber. Should the tuber survive, it will be found that the new growth of tubers will be affected by germs, causing a rusty appearance on them, or that so-called "scab" will appear on the tubers, noticeable at time of separating of the clumps of tubers.

THE USES OF SHARP BEACH SAND

It sometimes happens that tubers soften without apparent cause; and that the crown or upper part of the tuber, where the eyes or sprouts appear, seems to soften unduly. This is most likely where too great an amount of green vegetation has been used, such as lawn trimmings, etc. It is a "nitrate"



action. This can be offset to a remarkable extent by the free use of sharp sand about the tuber, at planting time. Another advantage is that sand will assure good drainage, while the tuber is developing shoots, and before a root system has formed to absorb moisture. About a shovelful to a plant will do, placed directly about the crown. The result will be firmer growth, and much better looking tubers.

CARE OF THE DAHLIA PLANT, CONDITION OF FOLIAGE, ETC.

After the plants have made their way through the soil, cultivation should start, in order to keep the soil loose about the base of the plant, and in order, also, to keep the bed free from weeds. A light working about the base of the plants at this time, is especially beneficial. Refrain from watering too much at this period, but continue to cultivate, and you will note that your plants will be stocky at the base, and much lower in height than would be the case under certain other conditions. At this time it will be well to note carefully the color of your plants, and if any should show a decidedly yellow foliage, lift the tuber carefully, and determine by examination what the trouble may be. Should a number of plants in the same situation show yellow foliage, try the following remedy:

Place trimmings from the base of Dahlia plants, in a sprinkling can, cover with hot water and let stand over night; then sprinkle the affected foliage freely with this liquid. Repeat this several times at intervals of a week or ten days, and notice how the appearance of the entire plant will improve. The foliage will take on a glossy deeper tone, and fairly sparkle with appreciation, unless the cause of the trouble should be within the tuber itself.

As soon as the older foliage begins to discolor, a moderate trimming off of the leaves will help the general condition of the plant, as well as the appearance. This trimming should begin at the base of the plant, and continue upward as the foliage becomes discolored and weather-beaten. It must be remembered that it is the new growth that produces the buds, and not the old.

When the plants are about eighteen inches high, heavier sprinklings overhead can be started, with continued cultivation of the soil. At this time it might be well to watch for insect larva, which is usually found under the older or bottom foliage of the plant, and which breeding places are removed when the foliage is removed. This is the time that we may begin to look for the first buds, and to decide if the plant is to be forced for large blossoms, or is to continue with only fair size blooms for a much longer period, as we grow them at Del Monte.

PERFECTION OF BLOSSOMS AND FORCING FOR GREAT SIZE

Nature has endowed the Dahlia plant with endless variety of type and coloring, and as for production of blooms, nothing can equal the Dahlia plant for blooming quality. A healthy Dahlia plant will produce blooms beyond all reason, under normal conditions. For this very reason, Nature is often imposed upon, and unreasonable things are expected of this generous dispositioned plant.

Dahlia Exhibitions are now held in practically every county of every State in the Union, and much joyous rivalry runs riot. The Dahlia exhibitor is demanding size, especially, and forcing his plants so that he may be able to grow larger blossoms than does his neighbor, who plans a year ahead to outdo his rival at the coming local Dahlia Show. These people make it a point to learn all the latest Dahlias. Many of them are satisfied in losing all of their stock of tubers later, if they can make a wonderful showing of large blooms for a period of a few days. To these last mentioned Dahlia fanciers, who may not know the best rules for forcing, I offer the following suggestions:

Conditions of soil should be the same for forcing, up to the point where the plant starts to form buds, as would be the case if forcing were not intended. By this time our plants should range from two feet to two and a half feet in height. The growth up to this point should be slow, so that no forcing qualities of the plant may have been spent. First begin to water the root system

by pouring a weak solution of liquid fertilizer into a shallow trench, dug about eighteen inches from the base of the plant.

Chicken manure is usually considered best for forcing Dahlias, but cow or barnyard manure will do, and even gives better results than does the chicken manure under certain conditions. Soils differ to such an extent that it is necessary for one to experiment to quite a degree, in order to determine which manures are most suitable. Gradually increase the amount of watering, as well as the strength of the liquid, as the plant assumes larger proportions, and ten days before the show, work into the soil for a distance of two feet about the plant, from one to two pounds of bone meal (ground bone). This is strong in phosphates (ammonia), which should favor the chances of your having larger blooms. Follow with heavy waterings, even to the extent of soakings about the base of the plants.

In the meantime, debudding should start with the forcing, thinning out branches, side shoots, and buds, leaving only a perfectly formed bud on each branch, in order that the growth may be directed to the one bud. Where three buds appear, leave the center, or terminal bud, removing the buds on both sides, and on down the branch. Use plenty of fertilizer and water three days before the show. Here is hoping that you win all the First Prizes.

THAT COMPOST HEAP

One of our visitors remarked that she had never expected to live to see such beautiful compost heaps as she beheld one day in August, at our Del Monte gardens. No wonder, for immense hills of trimmings from our plants, waste tubers, crushed and mixed with soil, were covered with many thousands of old blossoms. These compost heaps are made up during the summer and fall months, to be used as mulching for our Dahlia beds. This mulching is done after the lifting of the clumps of tubers, in the late fall. By all means, have a **compost heap**. Feed back to the soil, just the elements that your future Dahlia plants will consume, each season, and I assure you that your soil will never become depleted. You will thus be able to grow Dahlias successfully in the same spot, season after season.

THE CUTTING DOWN OF THE DAHLIA PLANT

Cut the plants down before the heavy frosts come in the fall, so that no blossoms remain. It is well to cut the plant fairly high, so that the hollow stalk will be sealed from the rain or water from the hose. Water remaining in the stalk is very apt to cause decay of the crown, the part of the clump where the eyes or sprouts appear.

Having been cut at this height, it will be seen that it avoids leaving a large opening in the stalk, as would have been the case had it been cut lower on the plant, which would have allowed rain water to stand in the stalk, and would be apt to start decay at the base of the old stalk, this being the vital point of the new crop of tubers, and is what we term the "crown." It is here that the new eyes, or shoots, appear.

The large tuber on the right of this clump of tubers is what is termed the "mother" tuber, and should be destroyed at time of separating, as it is apt to decay another season, after being planted a second time. It will also be found that this old tuber does not multiply to any great extent, as the food values it contained have been absorbed by the newer growth.

After trimming the plants in the manner indicated, leave the plant undisturbed for a few weeks, or until the stalks are thoroughly dried, which will be an indication that the tubers are quite thoroughly matured, but not cured.

LIFTING OF THE TUBERS

We now reach the point where extreme care should be exercised. It would be well to loosen the entire clump, cutting all the feeders, or roots, at the extreme end of the tubers, and leave in the same spot in the garden with sufficient soil heaped about the clump to avoid its freezing. Leave in this condition for a few days, then lift the clump carefully so as not to break the necks of the tubers, place the clump upon a suitable rack, for washing, remove

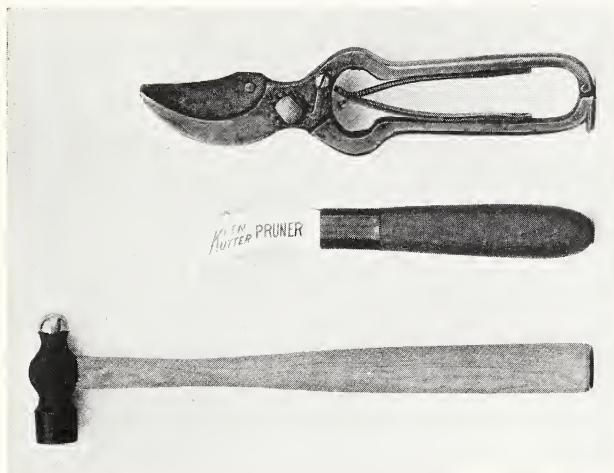


all the soil by means of a stream of water from the garden hose, and leave in the open air for a few hours only, to dry a bit, then place upon a bench or suitable table built to a proper height as to enable one to work to the best possible advantage in separating. The manner of separating is shown here, also the tools necessary to do good work.

After separating, the tubers should appear much the same as the single tuber shown on page twenty-seven, all decay removed and broken ends carefully trimmed. Now place the tubers in an open, airy situation for a few hours, in order that the cuts may become thoroughly dry, then pack away in sawdust or shavings, until planting-out time. Labels with name of the variety being handled should be constantly used in this work, to avoid getting the stock mixed.

PROPER TIME FOR PLANTING

Customers living in the Hawaiian Islands should order very early, as we make shipments there as early as January 1, yet either January or February will do. Southern California, and all points farther south, also plant very



Necessary Tools to be
Used in the
Separation of Tubers
are Here Shown

Manner of Use of Tools
in Separating
is Here Shown



early in the season, as a usual thing; yet where no frosts are to be contended with, Dahlia tubers can be planted even as late as June 1.

The rule to plant only after danger of frosts stands good everywhere, and in all climates. So it will be understood that a person can best judge the proper time to plant Dahlias, in their own particular locality. For instance, we ship to Maine and New Hampshire, usually the latter part of May; New York and New Jersey States, from April 15 to June 1. We ship to Massachusetts usually in May; Southern States, much earlier, usually in March and April; while customers in certain sections desire us to ship their orders as early as February. We begin planting, in most of central and northern California, the first of March.

HOW TO ORDER

We prepay postage, everywhere, on retail orders. We acknowledge receipt of all payments and correspondence. You may expect every tuber to be plainly marked with name and description, and to be true to name. Every tuber is fully guaranteed. Please enclose payment in full with order, as we do not carry accounts. Notice special offers on the inside of the back cover of this catalog.

The Dahlia



I have no lance to break with those who deify the rose;
 The lily and the iris see
 Me at their altar bend the knee.
 If, as its dower,
 A flower wear loveliness and grace,
 I care not what its name or race,
 I love that flower.

My garden! ah, a magic world!
 At dawn all dew-impearled;
 At eve, when glimmer through the gloom
 Pale taper stems of silver bloom;
 At the still hour
 Of cloudless noon—ah, who can tell
 The mystery, the miracle,
 Of bud and flower?

But first in all the garden fair,
 In that enchanted air,
 The Dahlia stands. So proud a thing
 Might face the presence of a king,
 Nor blench, nor cower:
 Fulfilment of a poet's dream,
 By beauty's right it reigns supreme,
 Imperial flower!

How oft I've lain, mid shadows cool,
 And seen it dye the pool
 With splendors deep that haunt the eye,
 With gorgeous hues the mirrored sky—
 The golden shower,
 The dazzling bloom of arctic white,
 The tremulous rain of crimson light,
 Illustrious flower!

To some pure flowers the gift is given
 To lift the heart to heaven;
 Before a Dahlia I have stood
 With God alone, in solitude,
 At dawn's rapt hour,
 In motionless and silent awe,
 As if the hand of God I saw
 Create that flower.

So, throned in beauty near and far,
 Thy fame like some clear star;
 And, radiant in thy loveliness,
 All eyes constraining to confess
 Thy sovereign power—
 Come to my heart, reign there alone
 Through days and years, ever my own
 Beloved flower!

—WILBUR DUBOIS,

Special Offers for 1927

Our reputation stands back of every one of these

DAHLIAS

OFFER NUMBER ONE

YOUR SELECTION

A \$12.50 Value for \$10.00

or

OUR SELECTION

A \$13.50 Value for \$10.00

One of the Finest Assortments Possible

OFFER NUMBER TWO

THE MOST FOR THE LEAST EXPENDITURE
100 Varieties of our BEST DAHLIAS, including the
"Wizard of Oz," "Earle Williams," "Monterey,"
And Many Other Splendid Varieties

OUR SELECTION - \$100.00

OFFER NUMBER THREE

OUR SELECTION

50 Varieties (one tuber of each) may be had for \$55.00

OFFER NUMBER FOUR

OUR SELECTION

25 Varieties (one tuber of each) may be had for \$27.50
There are No SMALL Flowering Dahlias in these collections.

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PLEASE ORDER BY NUMBER

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are grown

Leslie E. Doolittle
will grow them